

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

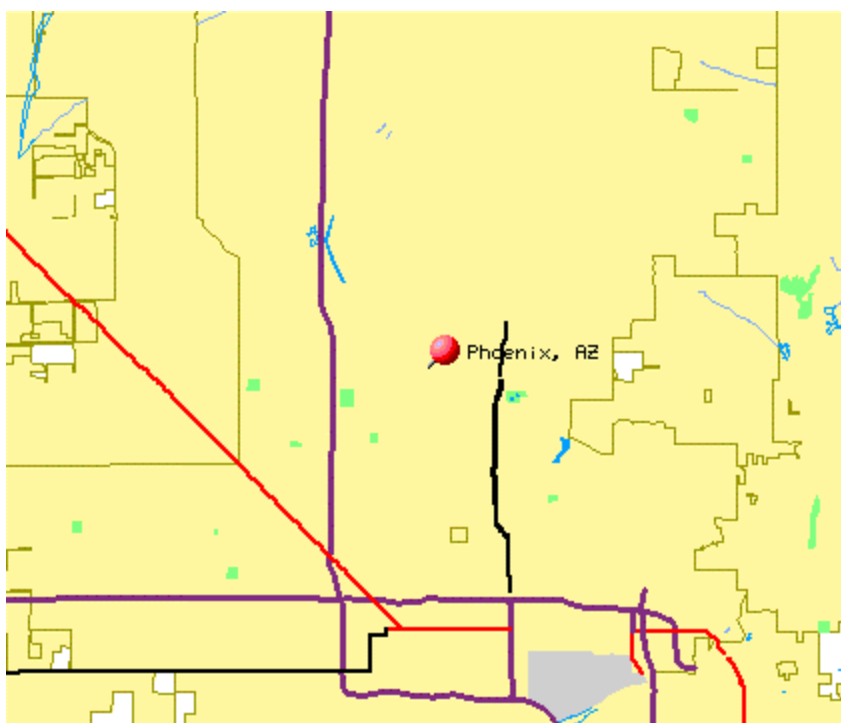
## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Phoenix, Arizona

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#### Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Phoenix**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics**

- City Population: 1,246,712<sup>1</sup>
- Race(Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1996): 91.4% white; 4% African American; 2.2% Asian or Pacific Islander; 19.5% Hispanic<sup>2</sup>
- Percent of the Population Between the Ages of 5 and 17(County): 18%<sup>3</sup>
- County : Maricopa

### **Politics<sup>4</sup>**

- Mayor: Skip Rimsza
- City Council Members (District): Dave Siebert (1); Tom Milton (2); Peggy Bilsten (3); Phillip B. Gordon (4); Cladue Mattox (5); Greg Stanton (6); Vice Mayor Doug Lingner (7); Cody Williams (8)
- Governor of Arizona: Jane Dee Hull

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- Executive Office of Weed and Seed<sup>5</sup>:
  - The Capital Mall/Oakland University Park site is located in central Phoenix and is slightly larger than one mile. This area was designated in 1987 as a redevelopment area to assist the Government Mall Redevelopment Commission and the City. Emphasis is being placed on properties that represent a nuisance to the community either through criminal activity or overall condition of the property. Crime prevention efforts targeting school-aged youth will include the “Wake Up” Program. This program teaches alternative to violence, gangs, and drugs while promoting positive decision making and building self-esteem. The Downtown Neighborhood Learning Center (DNLC) will provide community residents the opportunity to participate in monthly training programs with topics that include conflict resolution, landlord/tenant issues, parent/child relations, Mexican consul, affordable housing, buying a house, keeping the neighborhood clean, crime/safety and community empowerment. Improvements in this area have included housing rehabilitation, historic restoration, street light improvements, the development of a historic cemetery, and construction of new State office buildings.
  - The City of Phoenix was awarded funding by the U.S. Department of Justice in 1994 to implement the Weed and Seed Program in the mostly Hispanic Garfield Neighborhood in central Phoenix. Since 1994, the City of Phoenix has successfully applied for continuation funding. Drug Education for Youth Program (DEFY) provides 40 youth ages 8-12 a summer camp experience for five days and is held in conjunction with the Arizona National Guard. The program teaches youth self-esteem, and how to avoid becoming involved with drugs and gangs. A 9-month follow-up mentoring program is implemented after the camp.

- Drug Court Program Office<sup>6</sup>:
  - The Adult Drug Court in Phoenix was among the first in the country to be implemented (October 1992).
  - The Maricopa County Juvenile Drug Court found in Phoenix was established in November of 1997. The primary goals of this court are to eliminate substance use by the juvenile and to reduce the likelihood of criminal involvement of the juvenile. The secondary goals are to address socio-economic problems, to improve juvenile school performance, and to improve parental supervision. This Juvenile Drug Court performs case management and other program support functions that include the following: assessment; client orientation; referral to treatment (dedicated); preparation of court reports; urinalysis monitoring; client supervision; and treatment visits<sup>7</sup>.
- Approximately 70% of the total caseload had a substance abuse problem in the Maricopa County Juvenile Drug Court in 1997<sup>8</sup>.

Total Caseload	% w/ Substance Problems	Alcohol (%)	Barbiturates (%)	Crack/ Cocaine (%)	Hallucinogens (%)	Heroin (%)
13,187	70	60	5	35	5	15

- Approximately 60% of juvenile defendants in the Maricopa County Juvenile Drug Court used marijuana in 1997<sup>9</sup>.

Inhalants (%)	Marijuana (%)	Meth (%)	PCP (%)	Poly Drug (%)
15	60	35	5	60

- The Maricopa County DWI Drug Court found in Phoenix was implemented in March of 1998<sup>10</sup>.

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 1999, Phoenix saw increases in murder, forcible rape, robbery and car theft. Authorities claim that these crimes are associated with the booming drug trade in the area<sup>11</sup>.
- The murder rate for 2000 has dropped more than 30 percent in comparison to the same time period in 1999<sup>12</sup>.

- There were 9,122 Narcotic drug law offenses recorded by the Phoenix Police Department in 1999<sup>13</sup>.

#### Crimes in Phoenix

Offense	1998	1999
Murder	187	216
Rape	346	400
Robbery	3,664	3,819
Aggravated Assault	5,906	5,766
Burglary	18,733	15,927
Theft	57,957	50,556
Motor vehicle theft	17,843	17,959
Arson	255	237
Narcotic drug laws	9,354	9,122
Driving Under the Influence	1,814	2,000
Liquor Laws	1,385	1,438

- There were 9,122 Narcotic drug law offenses recorded by the Phoenix Police Department in 1999.<sup>14</sup>

#### History of Crimes, Phoenix Police Department

Narcotic Drug Laws:	1998	1999
Opium	4,234	4,530
Marijuana	3,469	3,089
Synthetic	1,536	1,322
Dangerous	115	181
Total	9,354	9,122

- During 1998 62.7% of adult male arrestees and 70.6% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drug use in Phoenix<sup>15</sup>.

#### Percent Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Phoenix 1998

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	24.8	13.9	35.4	36.1	13.3	19.4	3.5	0.0	58.4	55.6
Property	38.6	47.2	25.3	13.9	17.1	20.8	1.3	1.4	67.7	68.1
Drug	41.3	33.3	38.8	19.0	20.0	42.9	1.3	0.0	76.3	81.0
Prostitution	0.0	66.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.9
Other	26.7	34.9	33.1	27.7	16.4	27.7	0.7	1.2	58.0	69.9
Total	31.1	39.6	32.2	24.9	16.4	22.4	1.4	0.8	62.7	70.6

## Drugs<sup>16</sup>

### ➤ Cocaine and Crack

There were 21 cocaine-related deaths in Phoenix in 1997, which nearly matches the 22 cocaine-related deaths in 1987. The number of cocaine Emergency Department (ED) mentions has risen steadily from 614 in 1990 to 1,327 in 1996. The DEA and the Phoenix PD both reported that cocaine HCl and crack cocaine remain readily available.

### ➤ Heroin/Morphine

The Maricopa County ME reported 48 morphine-related deaths for 1997, which is a 38% decrease from the peak of 77 in 1996. However, the number of morphine/cocaine-related deaths reached an all-time high of 35 during 1997. This number is a 46% increase from 1996. Heroin ED mentions in Phoenix increased 28% between 1995 and 1996. The DEA reported black tar heroin as being readily available.

### ➤ Marijuana/Hashish

Marijuana remains Arizona's most readily available, trafficked, and abused drug. Marijuana ED mentions in Phoenix have steadily increased from 120 in 1990 to almost five times that number (592) in 1996.

### ➤ Other Drugs

- Methamphetamine has been reported to have easy availability throughout Arizona by treatment, law enforcement, and street sources. The Maricopa County ME reported 15 methamphetamine-only deaths for 1997. During 1997, there were 35 methamphetamine-related deaths. These deaths doubled from 1996. Methamphetamine ED mentions declined 9% between 1995 and 1996. The DEA attributes the increased availability of methamphetamine to the increasing number of local residents who manufacture their own methamphetamine. During second quarter FY 1998, 44 labs were seized, a 22% increase over the 36 labs seized in second quarter FY 1997. Methamphetamine is perceived to be the largest threat to law enforcement efforts in the Phoenix metropolitan area. An increase in the number of pipe bombs and dynamite sticks located at clandestine lab sites has been noted.
- There has been an increase in barbiturate-related deaths in Phoenix from 4 in 1995 to 8 in 1996 to 15 in 1997.
- Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) has been reportedly used as a "date rape" drug in Phoenix. It has been described as a "stove-top" drug due to the ease with which it can be manufactured.
- Methylphenidate (Ritalin) was reported as being used by all ages and in increasing amounts.

### Juveniles<sup>17</sup>

- During 1998, 68.7% of male juvenile arrestees tested positive for drug use in Phoenix.

Percent of Juvenile Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Phoenix 1998

Offense Category	Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth.	PCP	Any Drug
Violent	7.3	49.1	5.5	0.0	52.7
Property	15.3	64.3	6.1	0.0	68.4
Drug	11.8	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Other	16.8	65.5	7.1	1.8	72.6
Total	14.1	63.7	6.0	0.7	68.7

### Consequences of Use

- There was a total of 390 drug abuse deaths in Phoenix/Mesa during.<sup>18</sup>

Drug Abuse Deaths and Selected Characteristics  
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ 1997-1998

Characteristics	1997	1998
Deaths	240	390
GENDER		
Male	174	287
Female	63	100
RACE/ETHNICITY		
White	181	326
Black	12	13
Hispanic	39	39
Other	7	11
AGE		
6 to 17	-	-
18 to 25	22	38
26 to 34	55	84
35 and up	158	262
SELECTED DRUGS		
Alcohol in Combo	73	159
Cocaine	98	174
Heroin/Morphine	108	177
Marijuana/Hashish	-	-
Methadone	16	29
Methamphetamine	34	60
PCP	-	1
Total Drug Mentions	807	1,395

- There were 7,060 drug-related emergency room episodes in Phoenix during 1998.<sup>19</sup>

#### Drug-Related Emergency Room Episodes and Mentions in Phoenix, 1996-1998

	1997	1998	1999 Jan – June
Drug Episodes	7,327	7,060	4,008
Drug Mentions	12,663	12,292	6,906
Cocaine	1,334	1,486	826
Heroin/Morphine	832	893	395
Marijuana/Hashish	741	726	535
Methamphetamine	800	446	155

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> City of Phoenix Web site: <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/metrolis.htm>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/datamap/cnty?04=013>

<sup>4</sup> City of Phoenix Web site: <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us>

<sup>5</sup> Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org/west.asp>

<sup>6</sup> Drug Courts: <http://www.american.edu/academic/depts/spa/justice>

<sup>7</sup> Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Program Office, *Juvenile and Family Drug Courts: Profile of Program Characteristics and Implementation Issues*, June 1998:

<http://www.american.edu/justice/juvfam.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Drug Courts: <http://www.american.edu/academic.dept/spa/justice.html>

<sup>11</sup> *The Arizona Republic*, *Serious crime on rise in Valley*, May 8, 2000.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> City of Phoenix Web site: <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/statmain.html#TOP>

<sup>14</sup> City of Phoenix Web site: <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/statiicr.html>

<sup>15</sup> National Institute of Justice, *ADAM 1998 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*:  
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/175656.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Community Epidemiology Working Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume II: Proceedings, June 1998*, January 1999

<sup>17</sup> National Institute of Justice, *ADAM 1998 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*:  
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/175656.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network - Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000

<sup>19</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mid-Year 1999 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, December 1999

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